



DPC Issue Brief

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Title: Funding for Assistance with Relocation from Institutions

Background: In response to Promoting Independence Advisory Committee recommendations, the Department of Disability and Aging Services (DADS) began a series of contracts in 2001 for Relocation Assistance Services for individuals in Nursing Facilities seeking to transition to community residences with appropriate services and supports. Relocation Assistance Services is intensive case management to coordinate acquisition of housing, eligibility for community-based services and supports, and establishment of a household.

The Relocation Assistance Services program have assisted over 830 individuals per year who complete transition to the community, comprised of individuals who need extensive assistance to access the money-follows-the-person strategy for entry to a Medicaid waiver program. The need for Relocation Assistance Services occurs when an individual residing in an institution who wishes to move into the community but has no home or family, no natural community supports, and no funding to establish a household. Relocation Assistance Services contractors identify housing solutions, resolve problems in accessing waiver services, provide training in independent living skills, coordinate the physical move, and follow-up during adjustment to community life.

Recommendation: The Disability Policy Consortium (DPC) recommends that the Texas Legislature to fully fund the Department of Aging and Disability Services (DADS) Promoting Independence relocation initiatives in the amount of \$1,166,482 (GR) per year. This funding will continue a statewide network of contracts providing relocation assistance to individuals in nursing facilities seeking to transition to community residences with appropriate services and supports. This funding also includes Transition to Life in the Community grants to eligible individuals for expenses such as rent and utility deposits, furniture and basic household goods, and moving costs.

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS: *Statewide Members:* Advocacy, Incorporated, Brain Injury Association of Texas, Coalition of Texans with Disabilities, Epilepsy Coalition of Texas, The Institute for Disability Access/ADAPT, Lone Star Association for Persons in Supported Employment, Mental Health Association in Texas, National Alliance for the Mentally Ill of Texas, National Multiple Sclerosis Society of Texas, Texas Advocates, Texas AIDS Network, Texas Association of Centers for Independent Living, Texas Association of the Deaf, Texas Center for Disability Studies/ Texas Technology Access Project, Texas Council for Developmental Disabilities, Texas Federation of Families for Children's Mental Health, Texas Legal Services Center, Texas Mental Health Consumers, Texas State Independent Living Council, Texas State Sickle Cell Disease Association of America, The Center on Disability and Development at Texas A&M University, Council for Families for Children, United Cerebral Palsy of Texas, The Spina Bifida Association of Texas, Inc., and the Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance of Texas. *Local Members:* Epilepsy Foundation Central & South Texas. REACH Resource Centers on Independent Living – Dallas, Fort Worth and Denton, Corpus Christi Committee for Persons with Disabilities, Goodwill of Central Texas and Coastal Bend Center for Independent Living